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Plague on the steamship Montevideo.

[Cablegram.]

BARCELONA, SPAIN, *April 15, 1900.*

Steamship *Montevideo* arriving from Manila. Her medical officer reports that 2 cases of plague [occurred en route].

Orders received; will depart April 17.

ANDERSON,

Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

TURKEY.

Bubonic plague in the Persian Kurdistan.

[Report No. 242.]

CONSTANTINOPLE, *March 29, 1900.*

I have the honor to report that yesterday afternoon the superior sanitary commission was convoked in an extraordinary meeting in which it was communicated that bubonic plague had broken out at Djivanro in the Persian Kurdistan. It is the sanitary physician in Bagdad that wired said news, a French copy of which I have the honor to forward to the Department. Djivanro is situated between the chain of mountains of Dallaho and Sallaho, 6,000 feet from the level of the sea, on the Turco-Persian boundary line.

There are four tribes which are enemies to each other. Said tribes are, besides the Djivanro one, that of Avraman which live on the north of the latter, the Provansir which live on the east, and the Gulamber which live on the west. Said tribes are independent and are settled in about 50 villages in which they stay during the winter, but as soon as the spring begins they leave the villages and they live on the mountains under black tents, breeding their cattle or cultivating rice.

I must state that in Kurdistan as well as in Mesopotamia bubonic plague is an endemic disease which breaks out now and then and remains within the boundaries of the province. It is not like the China or India plague which spreads over and over. The inhabitants of Kurdistan are accustomed to it, and they know practically the effects of quarantine; therefore, at the first outbreak of said disease all the healthy inhabitants flee to the mountains and only the ill stay in the village, which is at once surrounded by a quarantine cordon. It is to be hoped that the present outbreak is an autochthonic bubonic plague and that it has not been imported from India. If it has been imported from the latter place it is to be feared that it will not be stifled on the spot, for, as above-mentioned, said tribes are independent, and the Persian or Turkish Government has no authority over them.

The superior sanitary commission has decided that a sanitary cordon will be established on the Turco-Persian boundary line, and that several sanitary physicians would be forwarded to the spot, among them the sanitary physicians of Bagdad and Hanequin.

Respectfully,

SPIRIDION C. ZAVITZIANO,

United States Sanitary Commissioner.